

December 18, 2014
Middlesex Municipal Building

The Regular meeting of the Middlesex Shade Tree Commission was held on the above date at the Middlesex Borough Hall and called to order by Chairman Jason Bond:

“This meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law in that the requirements of the law have been met by the Annual Meeting Notice which has been forwarded to the Courier News and posted in the Municipal Building on November December 8, 2014”

Members:	Jason Bond
	Dan Gitler
	Jim Gorman
	Sean Johnson
	Frank Ryan (absent)

Liaison	Sean Kaplan (absent)
Secretary	Linda Chismar

Chairman Bond opened the meeting to the public. Seeing that there were no public comments, Chairman Bond closed the Public Portion of the meeting.

Mr. Gorman made a motion to accept the November 13, 2014 Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried by a unanimous vote of the members of the Commission.

Mr. Gitler made a motion to accept the November, 2014 Finance Report seconded by Mr. Gorman and carried by a unanimous vote of the members of the Commission.

Communications

1. 207 Walnut Street – Commissioners Johnson, Bond and Gitler agreed that they would look to see if a crown cleaning was needed on this tree.
2. 315 First Street – Mr. Johnson will check on this tree to see the status of it.

Work Agenda

1. 307-311 Greene Avenue – Mr. Ryan will meet with the Victor Crowell Park Committee and discuss these trees and bring back to the Commission.
2. 433 Melrose Avenue – Mr. Bond checked on the tree that resident feels needed pruning and felt that nothing was needed.
3. 236 Fairfield Avenue – Mr. Gitler will look at this tree in the front of the property that needs to be either pruned or removed if dead.
4. 201 Sherman Avenue – Mr. Bond will look at the two trees in the back of this property at Mitchell Street that are dead and have branches falling and respond to Linda with status.

Unfinished Business

- (A) Increase of Fines when Removing Trees – A subcommittee of Jim Gorman, Jason Bond and Sean Johnson was created to discuss this ordinance. There was nothing to report at this time.
- (B) Update on Tree Management Plan – Mr. Bond will contact Mr. Cowie and decide if he will be attending either the February or March Shade Tree Meeting to discuss the goals or if a subcommittee will meet with him at another time. Commission did discuss certain goals which included (1) Tree Inventory; (2) More planting locations; (3) Potential species to plant; and (4) Preventative Maintenance with regard to the emerald ash borer beetle.

New Business

- (A) Update on 2014 Budget – Commission discussed remaining funds and requested that the following be completed for the year:
 - 1. Prune the 10 Pin Oaks along Madison Avenue (Cook Ave. Field) and remove dead wood. These trees are a danger to residents as this is the location of softball/baseball in the Spring and Pop Warner in the Fall.
 - 2. Crown Clean the following locations: (a) 426 Ashland Road – 2 pin oaks; (b) 209 A Street; (c) 528 Chestnut Ave. – 2 pin oaks; (d) 504 Decatur Ave. – Safety Prune.
 - 3. Request Predator to do a pruning of the following locations which are plantings done in 2009 and 2012 and should be pruned in accordance to the best management practices for younger trees.
 - (a) 200 South Avenue
 - (b) 350 North Lincoln Avenue
 - (c) (front of Watchung School)
 - (d) 214 Cook Ave.
 - (e) 428 Fairview Ave.
 - (f) 302 Seneca Ave. (Decatur side)
 - (g) 530 Walnut St. (F St. side)
 - (h) 124 Walnut St.
 - (i) 254 Raritan Ave. (2 trees)
 - (j) 1190 Mountain Ave.
 - (k) 318 Edgeworth St.
 - (l) 428 Howard Ave.
 - (m) 401 Giles Ave.
 - (n) 13 Mead Ave.
 - (o) 222 Fairview Ave.
 - (p) 236 Greene Ave.
 - (q) 209 Walnut St.
 - (r) 3 Starlit Drive
 - (s) Runyon Ave. (412, 413, 416, 420 & 424)
- (B) Discussion on Trimming of Shade Trees in Borough – Purchase of Door Knob Hangers – Secretary will contact FST for a quote for approximately 100 hangers, and Mr. Gitler will prepare information for these hangers.

(C) Update on Trimming Trees on Various Roads throughout the town – Discussed above.

(D) Update on 2015 Budget – Commission requested that secretary put in \$50,000 for the 2015 Budget. Jason Bond would be available to meet with Council to discuss.

Mr. Bond moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Linda Chismar, Secretary

NEXT SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY,
JANUARY 8, 2014 – 7:30 PM
MIDDLESEX BOROUGH HALL

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please call Linda at 732-356-7400, Ext. 238

